

## GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

### Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact for Construction of GSA Federal Laboratories, Prince George's County, Maryland

Reply to the Attention of: Dawud Abdur-  
Rahman, National Capital Region,  
General Services Administration, 7th  
and D Sts., SW., Washington, DC 20407

All comments must be received by  
April 13, 1999.

The General Services Administration  
will publish a Final Environmental  
Assessment and Finding of No  
Significant Impact (FONSI) on Friday,  
March 12, 1999 for Construction of  
Federal Laboratories in Beltsville,  
Maryland. The Final EA will be  
available for public review and  
comment at the Beltsville Library, 4319  
Sellman Road, Beltsville, Maryland  
20705.

The General Services Administration  
(GSA), acting as development manager  
for Federal facilities, proposes to  
construct and operate Federal  
Laboratories in Prince George's County,  
Maryland. The proposed action would  
consist of the construction a 150,000  
gross square foot (gsf) (13,935 gross  
square meters) National Laboratory and  
a 50,000 gsf (4,645 gross square meters)  
Fire Investigation, Research, and  
Education (F.I.R.E.) Center. The  
facilities would employ approximately  
152 people.

The new facilities would improve  
administrative and operational  
efficiency and would facilitate  
communication and interaction among  
staff. The proposed action would  
provide state-of-the-art laboratories and  
research facilities. The new facilities  
will alleviate overcrowding and provide  
safe, secure, and modern laboratories.  
The F.I.R.E. Center will be one of very  
few such facilities in the world and will  
enhance Federal fire scene  
investigations. The Center will serve as  
a training center for advanced fire  
investigation and a repository for  
technical data related to fire  
investigation and research.

### Finding

Pursuant to the provision of GSA  
Order ACM 1095.1D, the HB PBS P  
1095.4B and the regulations issued by  
the Council of Environmental Quality,  
November 29, 1978, (40 CFR Parts 1500  
to 1508), this is to advise you of our  
finding, based on the Final  
Environmental Assessment (EA), that  
the action described above is considered  
a major Federal action not significantly

affecting the quality of the human  
environment.

### Basis for Finding

The impacts of construction and  
operation of the proposed facilities on  
the environment were considered in an  
EA pursuant to the National  
Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of  
1969, as amended. The Final EA, which  
is available for review at the location  
listed above, is incorporated by  
reference into this Finding of No  
Significant Impact. Construction and  
operation of the proposed project would  
not have a significant adverse effect on  
the human environment.

Two alternate sites, the Ammendale  
Site and the Konterra Site, along with  
the No Action Alternative, were studied  
in detail in the EA. The EA describes  
the existing natural, physical social and  
cultural environment associated with  
each alternative. The EA also describes  
potential direct, indirect, and  
cumulative impacts associated with  
construction of the proposed facilities  
on each alternate site. Impacts of the No  
Action Alternative have also been  
analyzed.

Regardless of which of the two  
alternate sites is selected, moderate  
impacts will occur to the following  
resources: soils, forested areas, land use,  
aesthetics, utilities, and transportation  
facilities. If the Ammendale Site is  
selected, moderate impacts would also  
occur to Interior Forest Dwelling  
Species habitat. To mitigate potential  
impacts, GSA will implement the  
measures that are discussed in the  
Environmental Assessment.

This Finding of No Significant Impact  
will become final April 13, 1999  
provided that no information leading to  
a contrary finding is received or comes  
to light during the 30-day public review  
period.

**Nelson Alcalde,**

*Regional Administrator, National Capital  
Region, General Services Administration.*

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## GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

### Implementation of Changes to the Small Business Competitiveness Demonstration Program

**AGENCY:** Office of Acquisition Policy,  
GSA.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** Title VII of the "Business  
Opportunity Development Act of 1988"  
(Pub. L. 100-656) established the Small

### Business Competitiveness

Demonstration Program to provide for  
the testing of specified innovative  
procurement methods and procedures.  
The program was conducted by nine (9)  
designated agencies, including GSA,  
over a four (4) year period from January  
1, 1989 to December 31, 1992. Title VII  
of Public Law 100-656 was amended by  
the Small Business Opportunity  
Enhancement Act of 1992 (Pub. L. 102-  
366) to extend the demonstration  
program through the Omnibus  
Consolidated Appropriations Act (Pub.  
L. 104-208) for one year to September  
1997. In 1997, Congress also extended  
the aspect of the Program covering  
expansion of small business  
participation in the dredging industry.  
In December 1997, the Small Business  
Reauthorization Act of 1997, was  
enacted into law. As a result the  
program is extended indefinitely along  
with amendments to be implemented.  
The law designated four (4) industry  
groups for testing whether the  
competitive capabilities of the specified  
industry groups will enable them to  
successfully compete on an unrestricted  
basis. The four (4) industry groups are:  
construction (except dredging);  
architectural and engineering (A&E)  
services (including surveying and  
mapping); refuse systems and related  
services (limited to trash/garbage  
collection services); and non-nuclear  
ship repair. Under the program, when a  
participating agency misses its small  
business participation goals, restricted  
competition is reinstituted only for  
those designated industry groups that  
failed to attain the goal. The small  
business goal is 40 percent of the total  
contract dollars awarded for  
construction, trash/garbage collection  
services, non-nuclear ship repair and  
architect-engineer services. This notice  
announces modifications to GSA's  
solicitation practices under the  
demonstration program based on a  
review of the agency's performance  
during the period from October 1, 1998  
through September 30, 1999.  
Modifications to solicitation practices  
are outlined in the **SUPPLEMENTARY  
INFORMATION** section below and apply to  
solicitations issued on or after February  
1, 1999.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** February 1, 1999.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**  
Cecelia L. Davis, Office of Acquisition  
Policy, (202) 219-0202.

### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Procurements of construction or trash/  
garbage collections with an estimated  
value of \$25,000 or less and  
procurement of A&E services with an  
estimated value of \$50,000 or less shall